

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A rubber composition ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising

[1A] a crosslinked rubber particle ~~containing, as repeating~~ comprising polymerized units of, (a1) 40 to 79.99 % by weight of a conjugated diene monomer unit, (a2) 20 to 50 % by weight of an aromatic vinyl monomer unit, and (a3) 0.01 to 10 % by weight of a monomer unit ~~formed by a monomer~~ having at least two polymerizable unsaturated groups with respect to 100 % by weight of the total of (a1), (a2) and (a3), and

[2A] a conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber wherein the vinyl bond content of the conjugated diene unit is 10 to 30% by weight and the 1,4-trans bond content is ~~exceeding~~ exceeds 55 % by weight.

Claim 2 (Original): A rubber composition ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising

[1B] a crosslinked rubber particle ~~containing, as repeating units~~ comprising polymerized units of, (b1) 40 to 99.89 % by weight of a conjugated diene monomer unit, (b2) 0 to 50 % by weight of an aromatic vinyl monomer unit, (b3) 0.01 to 10 % by weight of a monomer unit ~~formed by a monomer~~ having at least two polymerizable unsaturated groups, and (b4) 0.1 to 30 % by weight of a monomer unit ~~formed by a monomer~~ having one polymerizable unsaturated group and at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of carboxylic group (CO_2H and/or CO_2^-), hydroxyl group and epoxy group with respect to 100 % by weight of the total of (b1), (b2), (b3) and (b4), and

[2B] a conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber wherein the vinyl bond content of the conjugated diene unit is 10 to 30 % by weight and the 1,4-trans bond content is ~~exceeding~~ exceeds 55 % by weight.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to Claim 2, wherein the content of said conjugated diene monomer unit (b1) is 40 to 79.89 % by weight, the content of said aromatic vinyl monomer unit (b2) is 20 to 50 % by weight, and said monomer unit (b4) ~~is formed by a monomer having~~ has one polymerizable unsaturated group and at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group and an epoxy group.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to Claim 2, wherein the content of said aromatic vinyl monomer unit (b2) is zero, and said monomer unit (b4) ~~is formed by a monomer having~~ has one polymerizable unsaturated group and at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group and an epoxy group.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein,

~~a monomer forming~~ said conjugated diene unit ~~constituting said crosslinked rubber particle~~ (a1) is at least one selected from the group consisting of 1,3-butadiene, 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, isoprene and chloroprene;

~~a monomer forming~~ said aromatic vinyl monomer unit ~~constituting said crosslinked rubber particle~~ is at least one selected from the group consisting of styrene, 2-methylstyrene,

3-methylstyrene, 4-methylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, 2,4-dimethylstyrene, 2,4-di-isopropylstyrene, 4-tertbutylstyrene and tert-butoxystyrene; and

~~a monomer forming~~ said monomer unit having said polymerizable unsaturated group ~~constituting said crosslinked rubber particle~~ is at least one selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, propylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, 1,4-butanediol di(meth)acrylate, 1,6-hexanediol di(meth)acrylate, trimethylolpropane di(meth)acrylate, trimethylolpropane tri(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol tri(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol tetra(meth)acrylate, divinylbenzene, diisopropenylbenzene and trivinylbenzene.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 1 wherein,

~~a monomer forming~~ said conjugated diene unit ~~constituting said~~ of the conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber is at least one selected from the group consisting of 1,3-butadiene, 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, isoprene and chloroprene, and

~~a monomer forming~~ said aromatic vinyl monomer unit ~~constituting said~~ of the conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber is at least one selected from the group consisting of styrene, 2-methylstyrene, 3-methylstyrene, 4-methylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, 2,4- dimethylstyrene, 2,4-diisopropylstyrene, 4-tert-butylstyrene and tert-butoxystyrene.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber further comprising a comprises at least one polymerized monomer unit ~~formed by at least one~~ selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylonitrile, vinylidene cyanide, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, (meth)acrylamide, maleimide, methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, n-propyl (meth)acrylate, isopropyl (meth)acrylate, n-butyl (meth)acrylate, iso-butyl (meth)acrylate,

sec-butyl (meth)acrylate, tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, n-amyl (meth)acrylate, n-hexyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl (meth)acrylate and cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate ~~as said monomer unit constituting said conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber.~~

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 1 wherein ~~a monomer forming~~ said conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber is comprises a monomer having one polymerizable unsaturated group and at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of carboxylic group (CO_2H and/or CO_2^-), amino group, hydroxyl group, epoxy group and alkoxysilyl group, ~~and content of monomer unit formed by said monomer is~~ and is present in an amount of 0.1 to 30 % by weight with respect to said conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to Claim 8, wherein ~~said monomer having one polymerizable unsaturated group and said functional group is~~ the conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber comprises polymerized units of at least one selected from the group consisting of

~~a carboxyl group containing compound such as~~ (meth)acrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, tetraconic acid, cinnamic acid, ~~monoesters of at least one selected from the group consisting of~~ acid; a monoester of phthalic acid, succinic acid ~~and or~~ adipic acid with (meth)allyl alcohol or 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate[,]; and salts thereof;

~~an amino group containing compound such as~~ dimethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylate, diethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(di-n-propylamino)ethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(di-n-propylamino)propyl

(meth)acrylate, 3-dimethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 3-diethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 3-(di-n-propylamino)propyl (meth)acrylate, N-dimethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-diethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-dimethylaminoethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-diethylaminoethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-dimethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-diethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(3-diethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N,N-dimethyl-p-aminostyrene, N,N-diethyl-p-aminostyrene, dimethyl(p-vinylbenzyl)amine, diethyl(p-vinylbenzyl)amine, dimethyl(p-vinylphenethyl)amine, diethyl(p-vinylphenethyl)amine, dimethyl(p-vinylbenzyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl[2-(p-vinylbenzyloxy)ethyl]amine, diethyl(p-vinylbenzyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl[2-(p-vinylbenzyloxy)ethyl]amine, dimethyl(p-vinylphenethyloxymethyl)amine, dimethyl[2-(p-vinylphenethyloxy)ethyl]amine, diethyl(p-vinylphenethyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl[2-(p-vinylphenethyloxy)ethyl]amine, 2-vinylpyridine, 3-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine,

a hydroxyl group-containing compound such as 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylates, 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylates, 3-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylates, 2-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylates, 3-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylates, 4-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylates, mono (meth)acrylates of polyethylene glycol (the number of ethylene glycol units is 2 to 23), mono (meth)acrylates of polypropylene glycol (the number of propylene glycol units is 2 to 23), N-hydroxymethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, o-hydroxystyrene, m-hydroxystyrene, p-hydroxystyrene, o-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, m-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, p-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene p-vinylbenzyl alcohol and (meth)allyl alcohol,

an epoxy group-containing compound such as (meth)allylglycidylether, glycidyl (meth)acrylate and 3,4-oxycyclohexyl (meth)acrylate, and

~~an alkoxysilyl group containing compound such as (meth)acryloxymethyl trimethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyl dimethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylmethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl triethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyl diethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl tripropoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyl dipropoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylpropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyl dimethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl triethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyl diethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphphoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl tripropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyl dipropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylpropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyl diphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyl dibenzyloxysilane and γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to Claim 2 wherein ~~a monomer forming~~ said monomer unit (b4) is at least one selected from the group consisting of

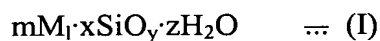
~~a carboxyl group containing compound such as (meth)acrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, tetraconic acid, cinnamic acid, monoesters of at least one selected from the group consisting of phthalic acid, succinic acid and adipic acid with (meth)allyl alcohol or 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, and salts thereof,~~

~~a hydroxyl group containing compound such as 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylates, 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylates, 3-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylates, 2-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylates, 3-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylates, 4-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylates, mono (meth)acrylates of polyethylene glycol (the number of ethylene glycol units is 2 to 23), mono~~

~~(meth)acrylates of polypropylene glycol (the number of propylene glycol units is 2 to 23), N-hydroxymethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, o-hydroxystyrene, m-hydroxystyrene, p-hydroxystyrene, o-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, m-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, p-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, p-vinylbenzyl alcohol and (meth)allyl alcohol, and~~

and an epoxy group containing compound such as (meth)allylglycidylether, glycidyl (meth)acrylate and 3,4-oxycyclohexyl (meth)acrylate.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one ~~of~~ reinforcing filler selected from the group consisting of the inorganic compound represented by the formula (I), silica and carbon black.



~~[In the formula I, M₁ wherein M₁ is at least one selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, Ti, and Ca; any an oxide of any of the metals thereof; or any and an hydroxide of any of the metals thereof; and m, x, y, and z are integers from 1 to 5, 0 to 10, 2 to 5, and 0 to 10 respectively].~~

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein,

~~a monomer forming said conjugated diene unit constituting said crosslinked rubber~~
particle (b1) is at least one selected from the group consisting of 1,3-butadiene, 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, isoprene and chloroprene,

~~a monomer forming~~ said aromatic vinyl monomer unit ~~constituting said crosslinked rubber particle (b2)~~ is at least one selected from the group consisting of styrene, 2-methylstyrene, 3-methylstyrene, 4-methylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, 2,4-dimethylstyrene, 2,4-di-isopropylstyrene, 4-tertbutylstyrene and tert-butoxystyrene, and

~~a monomer forming~~ said monomer unit having said polymerizable unsaturated group ~~constituting said crosslinked rubber particle (b4)~~ is at least one selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, propylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, 1,4-butanediol di(meth)acrylate, 1,6-hexanediol di(meth)acrylate, trimethylolpropane di(meth)acrylate, trimethylolpropane tri(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol tri(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol tetra(meth)acrylate, divinylbenzene, diisopropenylbenzene and trivinylbenzene.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 2 wherein;

~~a monomer forming said~~ the conjugated diene unit ~~constituting of~~ said conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber is at least one selected from the group consisting of 1,3-butadiene, 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, isoprene and chloroprene, and

~~a monomer forming~~ said aromatic vinyl monomer unit ~~constituting of~~ said conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber is at least one selected from the group consisting of styrene, 2-methylstyrene, 3-methylstyrene, 4-methylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, 2,4-dimethylstyrene, 2,4-diisopropylstyrene, 4-tert-butylstyrene and tert-butoxystyrene.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein the conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber further comprising a monomer unit formed by comprises polymerized units of at least one selected from the group

consisting of (meth)acrylonitrile, vinylidene cyanide, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, (meth)acrylamide, maleimide, methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, n-propyl (meth)acrylate, isopropyl (meth)acrylate, n-butyl (meth)acrylate, iso-butyl (meth)acrylate, sec-butyl (meth)acrylate, tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, n-amyl (meth)acrylate, n-hexyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl (meth)acrylate and cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate ~~as said monomer unit constituting said conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 2 wherein ~~a monomer forming~~ said conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber ~~is a~~ comprises polymerized units of a monomer having one polymerizable unsaturated group and at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of carboxylic group (CO_2H and/or CO_2^-), amino group, hydroxyl group, epoxy group and alkoxysilyl group, and ~~content of monomer unit formed by said monomer~~ is present in an amount of 0.1 to 30 % by weight with respect to said conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to Claim 16, wherein said monomer having one polymerizable unsaturated group and ~~said~~ at least one functional group is at least one selected from the group consisting of

~~a carboxyl group containing compound such as~~ (meth)acrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, tetraconic acid, cinnamic acid, monoesters of at least one selected from the group consisting of phthalic acid, succinic acid and adipic acid with (meth)allyl alcohol or 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, and salts thereof;

~~an amino group containing compound such as dimethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylate, diethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl~~

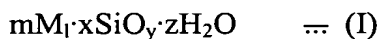
~~(meth)acrylate, 2-(di-n-propylamino)ethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(di-n-propylamino)propyl (meth)acrylate, 3-dimethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 3-diethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 3-(di-n-propylamino)propyl (meth)acrylate, N-dimethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-diethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-dimethylaminoethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-diethylaminoethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-dimethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-diethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(3-diethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N,N-dimethyl p-aminostyrene, N,N-diethyl p-aminostyrene, dimethyl(p-vinylbenzyl)amine, diethyl(p-vinylbenzyl)amine, dimethyl(p-vinylphenethyl)amine, diethyl(p-vinylphenethyl)amine, dimethyl(p-vinylbenzyloxymethyl)amine, dimethyl[2-(p-vinylbenzyloxy)ethyl]amine, diethyl(p-vinylbenzyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl[2-(p-vinylbenzyloxy)ethyl]amine, dimethyl(p-vinylphenethyloxymethyl)amine, dimethyl[2-(p-vinylphenethyloxy)ethyl]amine, diethyl(p-vinylphenethyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl[2-(p-vinylphenethyloxy)ethyl]amine, 2-vinylpyridine, 3-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine,~~

~~a hydroxyl group containing compound such as 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylates, 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylates, 3-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylates, 2-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylates, 3-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylates, 4-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylates, mono (meth)acrylates of polyethylene glycol (the number of ethylene glycol units is 2 to 23), mono (meth)acrylates of polypropylene glycol (the number of propylene glycol units is 2 to 23), N-hydroxymethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, o-hydroxystyrene, m-hydroxystyrene, p-hydroxystyrene, o-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, m-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, p-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene p-vinylbenzyl alcohol and (meth)allyl alcohol,~~

~~an epoxy group containing compound such as (meth)allylglycidyl ether, glycidyl (meth)acrylate and 3,4-oxycyclohexyl (meth)acrylate, and~~

~~an alkoxysilyl group containing compound such as (meth)acryloxymethyl trimethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyl dimethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylmethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl triethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyl diethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl tripropoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyl dipropoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylpropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyl dimethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylmethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl triethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyl diethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxypropyl tripropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyl dipropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylpropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyl diphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyl dibenzoyloxysilane and γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to claim 2, further comprising at least one of reinforcing filler selected from the group consisting of the inorganic compound represented by the formula (I), silica and carbon black:



~~[In the formula I, M₁ wherein M₁ is at least one selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, Ti, and Ca; any an oxide of any of the metals thereof; or any and an hydroxide of any of the metals thereof; and m, x, y, and z are integers from 1 to 5, 0 to 10, 2 to 5, and 0 to 10 respectively.]~~

Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (New): A tire comprising the rubber composition according to Claim 1.

Claim 21 (New): A tire comprising the rubber composition according to Claim 2.

Claim 22 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 8, wherein the conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber comprises polymerized units of at least one amino group containing compound selected from the group consisting of dimethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylate, diethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(di-n-propylamino)ethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(di-n-propylamino)propyl (meth)acrylate, 3-dimethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 3-diethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 3-(di-n-propylamino)propyl (meth)acrylate, N-dimethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-diethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-dimethylaminoethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-diethylaminoethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-dimethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-diethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(3-diethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N,N-dimethyl-p-aminostyrene, N,N-diethyl-p-aminostyrene, dimethyl(p-vinylbenzyl)amine, diethyl(p-vinylbenzyl)amine, dimethyl(p-vinylphenethyl)amine, diethyl(p-vinylphenethyl)amine, dimethyl(p-vinylbenzyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl[2-(p-vinylbenzyloxy)ethyl] amine, diethyl(p-vinylbenzyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl [2-(p-vinylbenzyloxy)ethyl] amine, dimethyl(p-vinylphenethyloxymethyl)amine, dimethyl[2-(p-vinylphenethyloxy)ethyl] amine, diethyl(p-

vinylphenethyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl [2-(p-vinylphenethyloxy)ethyl] amine, 2-vinylpyridine, 3-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine.

Claim 23 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 8, wherein the conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber comprises polymerized units of a hydroxyl containing compound selected from the group consisting of a 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, a 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, a 3-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, a 2-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate, a 3-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate, 4-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylates, a mono (meth)acrylate of polyethylene glycol having from 2 to 23 ethylene glycol units, a mono (meth)acrylate of polypropylene glycol having from 2 to 23 propylene glycol units, N-hydroxymethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, o-hydroxystyrene, m-hydroxystyrene, p-hydroxystyrene, o-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, m-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, p-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene p-vinylbenzyl alcohol and (meth)allyl alcohol.

Claim 24 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 8, wherein the conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber comprises polymerized units of an epoxy group containing compound selected from the group consisting of (meth)allylglycidylether, glycidyl (meth)acrylate and 3,4-oxycyclohexyl (meth) acrylate.

Claim 25 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 8, wherein the conjugated diene/aromatic vinyl copolymeric rubber comprises polymerized units of an alkoxysilane containing compound selected from the group consisting of (meth)acryloxymethyl trimethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyldimethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylmethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl triethoxysilane,

(meth)acryloxymethyl methyldiethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl tripropoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyldipropoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylpropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyldimethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl triethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyldiethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphphoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl tripropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyldipropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylpropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyldiphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyldibenzyloxysilane and γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane.

Claim 26 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 2, wherein the monomer unit (b4) is at least one selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, tetraconic acid, cinnamic acid, a monoester of phthalic acid, succinic acid and adipic acid with (meth)allylalcohol or 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, and salts thereof.

Claim 27 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 2, wherein the monomer unit (b4) is at least one selected from the group consisting of a 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, a 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, a 3-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, a 2-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate, a 3-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate, a 4-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate, a mono (meth)acrylate of polyethylene glycol having 2 to 23 ethylene glycol units, a mono (meth)acrylate of polypropylene glycol having 2 to 23 propylene glycol units, N-hydroxymethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N,N-bis(2-

hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, o-hydroxystyrene, m-hydroxystyrene, p-hydroxystyrene, o-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, m-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, p-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene p-vinylbenzyl alcohol and (meth)allyl.

Claim 28 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 2, wherein the monomer unit (b4) is at least one selected from the group consisting of (meth)allylglycidylether, glycidyl (meth)acrylate and 3,4-oxycyclohexyl (meth) acrylate.

Claim 29 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 16, wherein the monomer having one polymerizable unsaturated group and at least one functional group is at least one selected from the group consisting of dimethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylate, diethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(di-n-propylamino)ethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 2-diethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(di-n-propylamino)propyl (meth)acrylate, 3-dimethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 3-diethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate, 3-(di-n-propylamino)propyl (meth)acrylate, N-dimethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-diethylaminomethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-dimethylaminoethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-diethylaminoethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-dimethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-diethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N-(3-diethylaminopropyl) (meth)acrylamide, N,N-dimethyl-p-aminostyrene, N,N-diethyl-p-aminostyrene, dimethyl(p-vinylbenzyl)amine, diethyl(p-vinylbenzyl)amine, dimethyl(p-vinylphenethyl)amine, diethyl(p-vinylphenethyl)amine, dimethyl(p-vinylbenzyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl[2-(p-vinylbenzyloxy)ethyl] amine, diethyl(p-vinylbenzyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl [2-(p-vinylbenzyloxy)ethyl] amine, dimethyl(p-

vinylphenethyloxymethyl)amine, dimethyl[2-(p-vinylphenethyloxy)ethyl]amine, diethyl(p-vinylphenethyloxymethyl)amine, diethyl [2-(p-vinylphenethyloxy)ethyl] amine, 2-vinylpyridine, 3-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine.

Claim 30 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 16, wherein the monomer having one polymerizable unsaturated group and at least one functional group is at least one selected from the group consisting of a 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, a 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, a 3-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, a 2-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate, a 3-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate, a 4-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate, a mono (meth)acrylate of polyethylene glycol having from 2 to 23 ethylene glycol units, a mono (meth)acrylate of polypropylene glycol having from 2 to 23 propylene glycol units, N-hydroxymethyl (meth)acrylamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl) (meth)acrylamide, o-hydroxystyrene, m-hydroxystyrene, p-hydroxystyrene, o-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, m-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene, p-hydroxy- α -methylstyrene p-vinylbenzyl alcohol and (meth)allyl alcohol.

Claim 31 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 16, wherein the monomer having one polymerizable unsaturated group and at least one functional group is at least one selected from the group consisting of (meth)allylglycidylether, glycidyl (meth)acrylate and 3,4-oxycyclohexyl (meth) acrylate.

Claim 32 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 16, wherein the monomer having one polymerizable unsaturated group and at least one functional group is at least one selected from the group consisting of (meth)acryloxymethyl trimethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyldimethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl

dimethylmethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl triethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyldiethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylethoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl tripropoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl methyldipropoxysilane, (meth)acryloxymethyl dimethylpropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyldimethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl triethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyldiethoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl tripropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyldipropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylpropoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyldiphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane, γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl methyldibenzoyloxysilane and γ -(meth)acryloxypropyl dimethylphenoxysilane.

Claim 33 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 2, wherein the carboxylic group is a CO_2H or a CO_2^- group.

Claim 34 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 8, wherein the carboxylic group is a CO_2H or a CO_2^- group.

Claim 35 (New): The rubber composition according to Claim 16, wherein the carboxylic group is a CO_2H or a CO_2^- group.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDEMENT

Claims 1-11, 13-18 and 20-35 are active in the present application. Claims 12 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 20-35 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. No new matter is added.